BOROUGH OF TENTERDEN

KENT

ANNUAL REPORTS OF MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

AND CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

FOR THE YEAR 1956

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BOROUGH OF TENTERDEN (KENT)

Annual Reports of the Medical Officer of Health and of the Chief Public Health Inspector for the Year 1956

Mr. Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors,

I have the honour to present to you my Annual Report for the Year 1956.

The estimate of the mid-year Home Population of the Borough, by the Registrar General was 4,540, which shows an increase by 120 over that of the previous year.

The number of live-births was 61, i.e. 7 more than in 1955, and the equivalent crude birth-rate was accordingly 13.44; after adjustment by the Registrar General's comparability factor, which allows for unbalanced age and sex groups, to provide comparison with other Districts, the rate becomes 14.78; that for England and Tales was 15.7. The high post-war birth-rates have steadily declined to an equilibrium around 15 where they are likely to remain stationary.

There was only one still-birth and the rate was therefore low, i.e. 16.11, compared with that of 23.0 for England and Wales. A low rate may be regarded as an index of adequate ante-natal supervision and skilled obstetric care.

There were, however, two infant deaths and the infantile mortality rate was accordingly 32.62; that for England and Wales was 23.8. Both deaths were due to Prematurity, which is usually the chief cause of infant deaths.

Relative to the 61 births, there was no death amongst nothers due to pregnancy child-birth and abortion. Maternal deaths throughout the Country were relatively high at the beginning of this Century and until 1936 remained almost stationary at the level of 4 deaths per 1,000 births. From 1936 enwards the number of deaths gradually declined owing to a combination of various factors; for example the introduction of the Sulphonamides for the treatment of Puerperal Sepsis and later that of Penicillin in 1941 and other subsequent Antibiotics; the Midwives Act, 1936, established a whole-time salaried service of demociliary Midwives and there was accordingly an increase in the number of women attended by Midwives; there was also an increase in the number of women who were admitted to the more specialised Faternity Hospitals, which included the more common use of blood and plasma transfusions.

The total number of deaths from all causes was 91 (41 male, 50 female), and the crude death-rate was accordingly 20.04; this high crude rate is due to the fact that there is within the Borough a Hospital for the Chronic Sick where the mortality is naturally high. The Registrar General's Comparability Factor, however, makes allowance for this and the equivalent adjusted rate for comparison with other Districts was 8.42; that for England and Wales was 11.7.

The majority of the deaths were amongst the aged, due to Heart and Vascular Diseases, which naturally terminate life.

Disease of the Coronary Artery of the Heart is, however an exception, as many middle-aged persons become victims, and it is one of three causes of death which is increasing, the other two being Cancer of the Lung and Leukaemia, notwithstanding modern medical progress. There were six deaths from this cause, 2 male and 4 female; it is more common for these deaths Annual Reports of the Medical Officer of Health and of the Chief Fublic Health Inspector for the Year 1956

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to predominate in males, but it should be kept in mind that these figures are too small for statistical significance. The ages at death were 52,71,75,76, 77 and 78 years. The hypotheses that the disease is associated with prolonged stress and also with excessive smoking, have many advocates.

Cancer, as anticipated, was the second highest cause of deaths, the total number having been 12. Although modern surgery and radio-therapy are achieving excellent results in the treatment of this disease, they can only prolong life at the most when the disease is advanced. At present the most important line of defence is early diagnosis. Cancer of the Lung caused three male deaths; the ages at death were 5,60 and 64 years. None of these deaths occurred in Test View Chronic Sick Hospital. The alleged relationship with tobacco smoking has become a cause of anxiety to-day. It is, however, difficult to reconcile the allegation that smoking is a primary cause, in view of the fact that the majority of smokers die in old age from natural causes. It would seem to be reasonable, however, to allege that it is a contributory cause, particularly in those who smoke excessively; polluted and vitiated atmospheres probably also contribute to the causation of the disease.

The other causes of death were miscellaneous and there was no unusual incidence.

There were no deaths due to the Infectious Diseases.

Modern medical science has achieved almost miraculous success in the battle against bacteria, both in prevention and treatment. For example, e.g. immunisation against Diphtheria has virtually eradicated this killing disease. The introduction of the Sulphonamides in 1936 and of penicillin for use in 1941 and other later antibiotics has placed specific weapons in the hands of the profession for the treatment of many diseases, such as Typhoid and Paratyphoid Pevers, the Dysenteries, Food Poisoning, the Bacterial Pneumonias, Meningitis, Scarlet Fever, Erysipelas, Puerperal Sepsis, Staphylococcal infections and the bacterial complications of the virus diseases.

The virus diseases of to-day constitute the greater problem, but there is good reason for hope that the virus of Poliomyelitis, which is the most formidable, will be rendered innocuous by the new vaccines. There are other viruses, however, which attack the central nervous system causing Meningitis and Encephalitis and those which attack the respiratory system causing Pneumonia. Laryngo-tracheo-bronchitis and nasal and throat affections with febrile catarrh. A Virological Service has been established within the Public Health Laboratory Service to study these viruses, amongst which the viruses of Influenza are probably the most important.

Regarding the Infectious Diseases which occurred in the Borough during the year, there was an outbreak of Sonne Dysentery in the Ashford Road Primary School.

The outbreak occurred in February during a very severe cold spell which froze the outdoor water-closets of the school; it began in the Infant Class where strict hygiene is more difficult to enforce and spread rapidly throughout the school. The children suffered from diarrhoea with or without blood and mucus for, on an average 3 - 4 days, but none was seriously ill. The Sonne Bacillus was isolated from a number of stools. The outbreak emphasizes the necessity for strict hygiene concerning school toilet facilities, particularly in periods when water-closets are not adequately protected from freezing.

Two sporadic cases of Scarlet Fever were notified. In its present phase the illness is usually mild; occasionally its chief complication viz. Otitis Media occurs; more occasionally Acute Nephritis, for which epidemic type iv and xii are usually

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Only one case of Measles was notified. Outbreaks usually occur every second year when there is a sufficient number of susceptible children. Fortunately it is not a serious disease, for it is highly infectious and no vaccine is available for its prevention. Occasionally, its chief complication, bronchopneumonia, supervenes and may develop rapidly within 12 to 24 hours, but antibiotic treatment is usually successful if the disease is not too far advanced. Gamma globulin is still available at the Public Health Laboratory, Preston Hall, for use for passive immunisation, for example, when a child who is suffering from any serious illness, has been exposed to Measles within five days.

No other infectious diseases were notified.

One new case of Respiratory Tuberculosis was notified and there were no deaths. The Chest Physician of the area is responsible for ascertainment, the investigation of contacts and the arrangements for treatment. The treatment of the disease has made notable progress within recent years and the mortality is declining rapidly. Improved facilities for X-ray examinations in Hospital and by the Mass Radiography Service are also having their effect on the morbidity. Also B.C.G. vaccination will be offered in 1957 to school-children aged 13 years, through the agency of the School Medical Service. The future, in respect of this disease, is now as bright as the past was dark.

No non-respiratory or bovine cases of tuberculosis were notified, which may be regarded as an index of the bacterial purity of the milk supplies, which are all designated in the Borough.

In conclusion, I wish to take this opportunity of thanking you for your interest and assistance in the work of my Department, and also the staff for their efficient co-operation.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

J. MARSHALL.

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SECTION A.

STATISTICAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE DISTRICT

FOR 1956

Area: 8,946 acres

Registrar-General's Estimate of:-

The Resident Population		•••	4,540
Number of Inhabited Houses According to the Rate Books	•••	•••	1,562
Rateable Value	•••	•••	£59,055
Sum Represented by a Permy Rate		•••	£235

SOCIAL CONDITIONS

4.

Tenterden Borough is a limb of the ancient town of Rye and throughout the Centuries has retained its identity, its character of charm, and its historical traditions.

The borough is chiefly a residential district and being surrounded by wide rural areas its interests are chiefly those of agriculture.

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	EX	TRACTS PR	OH VIS	ML	STATISTICS		
		Total	H.	F.		Tenterden Borough District	England Grid Walse
1.	Live Births	61	31	30	Birth Rate	13.44	15.7
	(a) Logitimate	58	30	28	per 1,000 estimated		
	(b) Illegitimat	0 3	1	2	resident population		
2.	Stillbirths	1	1	000	Rate per	16.11	23.0
	(a) Legitimate	1	1	-	1,000 total (live and still) birth		
	(b) Illegitimat	0 -	~	-	SCITI) DILO	15	
3.	Doaths	91	41	50	Death rate per 1,000 resident population	20.04	11.7
4,	Deaths from Pro Childbirth a Abortion.		-	-	Rates per 1,000 (live and still) births	œs	Not available
5.	Deaths of Infanunder One Yo of Age		0	2			
	(a) Legitimeto	2	0	2			
	(b) Illegitimat	6 •••	-	-			
	Infant mortalit Rate re legitim Rate re illegit	ate infants		lve bi	rths	32.62 34.48	23.8
	Doaths from Can Douths from Who Leaths from Cas Dooths from Los	oping Cough tritis, ent	(all a	end di		12	
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CAUSIN OF DEATH IN THIMPERDEN BOROUGH

DURING 1950

	ALL CAUSES .	Malos	Females
		41	50
	Pul orculosis, respiratory		(See
	Triburculosis, other	-	-
	Symbilitic disease		-
	Dirhtheria	440	gara .
	Thooping Cough	-	-
	Meningococcal infections	-	-
	Acut. Pelioryelitis	-	-
	Leasles	-	
	Other infective and parasitic diseases		000
	lalignant neoplasm, stomach		000
•	Kalignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	3	-
	Malignant nooplasm, breast	0-0	1 1
•	lignant neoplas, uterus		_
٠	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	6	1 2
•	Laukaemin, aloukaemia	-	-
٥	Disbetes	1 1	-
	Vincular lesions of nervous system	7	9
4	Coronary disease, angina	2	4
0	Expertension with heart disease	-	1
•	Other neart disease	16	27
•	Other circulatory disease	1 1	-
•	Influenca	nuo .	-
٠	Few miles, iq	2	
٠	Rronchitis	1 1	1
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•	Promaby, childbirth, abortion		-
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Year of Birth	1956	1955	1956 1955 1954 1953 1952 1951 1950 1	953	1952	1951	1950	616	946	1947	9/16	1948 1947 1946 1945 1944	776	1943 1942	1942	· .	Total
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Re-inforcing Incoulations			1	1	~		N	N	1	C)	1	7	1	1	1		55
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New Cases and Mortality 1956

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ZoleTe.	Billing Commonweal	- 3	Working and

SUCTION C.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

Water Supply

The Water Undertakers are now the Mid-Kent Water Co., of Snodland, who have effected many improvements in the supply of water to this area. A new 8" feeder main has been laid in the St. Lichaels district connected to the existing main in the centre of the village. The feeder is connected to mains in the Woodchurch area, the source of the water being from Hastingleigh.

The carrying out of improvements to the filtration plant at Goudhurst has from time to time, had the unfortunate effect of causing the supply to have a slight yellow/brown appearance due to the presence of iron, and has led to enquiries from users as to the cause. Samples taken, however, continue to be of the highest standard of bacterial purity.

The following is an analysis of water samples taken during the

	52	cteriological	Che	emic	al
	No.	Results	No.	40-	Results
Raw Water	5	1 unsatisfactory			Red
Treated Water	7	4 satisfactory All very satisfactory		•	

The unsatisfactory sample above was from a well at Ashbourne kill, Tenterden, the promises are now, however, connected to the main supply.

Drainage. Sewerage and Sewage Disposal.

Plans drawn up by Consultant Engineers to relieve the Council's Sewage Disposal Works which have become overloaded due to post-war development, have been laid before the Kent River Board for approval. The Improvements will have the effect of producing a much better effluent and dealing with a much greater volume of sewage.

A number of complaints with regard to sesspools have been dealt with.

Housing.

66 private houses and 17 Council houses were built during the year, making a total of 180 private houses and 221 Council houses erected since the last war.

There are 111 applicants on the waiting list for Council houses.

Eleven applications for Improvement Grant under the Housing Acts were approved during the year, in respect of Improvements to private properties.

Housing Statistics

- i. Number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects under the Public Health and Housing Acts. 49
- ii. Number of Houses found to be in any respect unfit for human habitation.
- iii. Number of Houses found to be unfit for human habitation and incapable of repair at reasonable expense.

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The courting out of improvements to the filtration plant it thurst has from time to time, had the unfortunate silect of any the supply to have a slight yellow/brown application of the necessary of trees and has led to enquiries from users to the continue to be of the first door of the continue to be of the first door the continue to be of the

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- t. Number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects under the Public Health and Housing Acts.
 - the month of Source found to be in any respect unfit for

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(iv) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied by informal action

10

The twelve houses above referred to will be dealt with under a four-year plan in respect of which a new housing estate will be developed to take displaced persons.

4. Nursing Homes and Hospitals

The West View Hospital is regularly visited and inspected. It is managed upon most efficient lines. The Kench Hill Nursing Home has maintained its high standard in all respects.

5. Hop-Pickers Incomments.

All six camps were inspected prior to and during use, including W.C. accommodation, drying room facilities, and refuse disposal. Conditions were found to be reasonably satisfactory and huts were cleaned and/or limewashed before occupation.

6. Eradication of Vermin

A further severe case of infestation by fleas and bugs was found and dealt with.

of the comments.

7. Milk Supplies

There were four Registered Distributors of Milk and one Registered Dairy in the Borough. Three of the supplies are Pasteurised and one Tuberculin Tested. 9 Milk samples were taken all of which satisfied the tests.

8. Inspection of Food and Food Preparing Premises

A comprehensive inspection of all Food Preparing, and Food Handling Premises was carried out during the year under the Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955, and attention called to many improvements needed in order to comply with the Regulations. This work is still in hand.

A number of pre-packed samples of Ice Cream were taken and satisfactorily Graded 1 and 11. There is no Ice Cream manufactured in the District for public sale.

There is one slaughterhouse in the Borough which is mainly used for casualty slaughtering. Slaughterhouse conditions are satisfactory.

Carcases Inspected and Condemned

	Cettle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs.
Number killed		2	12	25	46
Number inspected	-	100000000000000000000000000000000000000	2	6	12
All diseases (except tuberoulosis) Whole carcases condemn	ed -	-		_	
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	-	-		-	1
Tuberculosis only Thole or part carcases or organ condemned.		· ·			

(iv) Number of dwelling houses in which defects

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fest View Heapt is regularly visited and increduction.

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SETTOMOR REPORT

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There were four Registered Distributors of Hilk and our serieters. There is and our supplies one. Tuberculin Tested. 9 Hilk samples n all of which satisfied the tests.

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Antonyani voon	100	-	2		81	1
Internal properties into	- 26		-			1
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white a real property					1	

The following foods were condemmed as unfit for human consumption due to blown tins, deterioration, and rail transport delays in hot woother.

Tinned goods
Tinned wilk
Cooked meats and sausages
Imported fresh meat

32 lbs. 4 ozs.
2 pints
10 lbs.
1 owt. 3 qrts. 10 lbs.

The rather large quantity of fresh meat above was received upon the rotailers' premises in a deteriorated condition, due to delays in handling as mentioned above.

Sanitary Inspection of the District.

Details of Inspection work carried out:-

	No.	of Visi
Hop-Pickers Encampments Bakehouses Slaughterhouses		12 2
Other Food Preparing Establishments		66
Milk Samples Ice Cream Samples		12
Factories		12
Sanitary Conveniences		12
Keeping of Animals Sanitary Accommodation		18
Drainage		30
Cesspools Offensive Accumulation		4 2
Refuse Receptacles		40
Water Supply		12
Rodent Control Infestation of Vermin		
Infectious Diseases		3 2
Other visits - including New Buildings Dwellings inspected for defects		70 49
z nezzanye zampowod z oz dozowo	-	
		1,50
	-	477

Factories Acts 1937 and 1948

1. Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspection made by Public Health Inspectors.)

	Promises	Number on Reg- ister			Occupiers Prosecuted
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
i.	Factories in which Section 1, 2, 3, 4, & 6, are to be enforced by Local Authorities	11	12	1	-
i.	Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.	-	-	-	-
1.	Other promises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises).	_		_	

The following foods were condemned as unfit for human consumption due to blown tins, deterioration, and rail transport delays in hot woother.

Timed goods
Timed wilk
Cooked meets and sausages 10 lbs.
Imported fresh meat towt. 3 grts. 10 lbs.

The rather large quantity of fresh meat above was received upon the rotailers' premises in a deteriorated condition, due to delays in handling as mentioned above.

Senitary Inapection of the District.

Details of Inspection work carried out:-

of Vis	· ON
10 55 05 05 05 05 05 05 05 05 05 05 05 05	Mop-Pickers Encampments Bakehouses Slaughterhouses Other Food Preparing Establishments Its Samples Its Creem Sauples Sanitary Conveniences Sanitary Conveniences Sanitary Accommodation Sanitary Accumulation Cesspools Offensive Accumulation Actor Supply Receptacles Infestation of Vermin Infectious Diseases Infectious Diseases Other visits - including New Buildings Dwellings inspected for defects Dwellings inspected for defects
-	

Factories Acts 1937 and 1948

459

1. Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspection made by Public Health Inspectors.)

	Written	Nu Inspoc- tions		Promises
(5)	(4)	(3)	(2)	(1)
and a		St	11	Factories in which Section 1, 2, 3, 4, & 6, are to be enforced by Local Authorities
	Com			Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.
				Other promises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises)

2. Cases in which defects were found.

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	27 -			0 1-	Number of
Particulars		cases in Cound.	n which do	rects	cases in which
The second secon			Reforred:	-	Prosecution
	Found	Remedied	To H.M.	By H.M.	were
(1)	(2)	(3)	Inspector (4)	Inspector (5)	Instituted (6)
nt of cloanliness (S.1)			-		400
prerowding (S.2)		-	-	-	-
reasonable temporature (S.3)	_	-	-		-
ffective drainage of floors (S.	-6) -				
itary Conveniences (S.7)	•••				
(a) Insufficient	-	-	-		-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	1 1	1	-	1	-
(c) Not separate for Sexes	-	040	-	-	-
er offences against the Act translating offences renting					
Outwork)	-	-	-	-	-

2. Cases in which defects were found.

Number cases : which Prosecu		Referred	pund,	J.I.	Vero	V	Particulars
Institu (6)	Inspector (5)	Inspector	(3)		(2)		(1)
Coo	ecs.	-	-		-	-	of cloonliness (8.1) rowding (8.2)
000	Disc.	-			-,	2 21	sonable temperature (S.3) quate Ventilation (S.4) sotive drainage of floors
15697		400			- (1) Insufficient
F520	1	900			1	1	O Not separate for Sexes
			\$	1		1	toh out tening assertion including offences realting
